



As a steward of our nation's coastal and marine environments, NOAA addresses immediate and long-term environmental threats through its Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). Scientists are on call around-the-clock to provide the U.S. Coast Guard and other emergency responders with critical information to help minimize environmental damage caused by oil and hazardous chemical spills. Environmental experts assess ecosystems compromised by historic or ongoing contamination and work with other organizations to conduct remediation, restoration, and monitoring of critical natural resources.

Protecting and Restoring New Jersey's Coastal and Marine Areas

NOAA trust resources in New Jersey include sensitive wetlands, coastal shorelines and beaches, as well as urban, suburban, and rural areas. The state of New Jersey is bounded by ports on the Delaware River and New York Harbor. More than 100 coastal hazardous waste sites threaten natural resources in the state. Multiple health advisories for fish and shellfish consumption affect recreational use for millions of people. The state map on the reverse page shows key response and restoration activities in the past year.



Athos I oil spill in Delaware River

Emergency Response

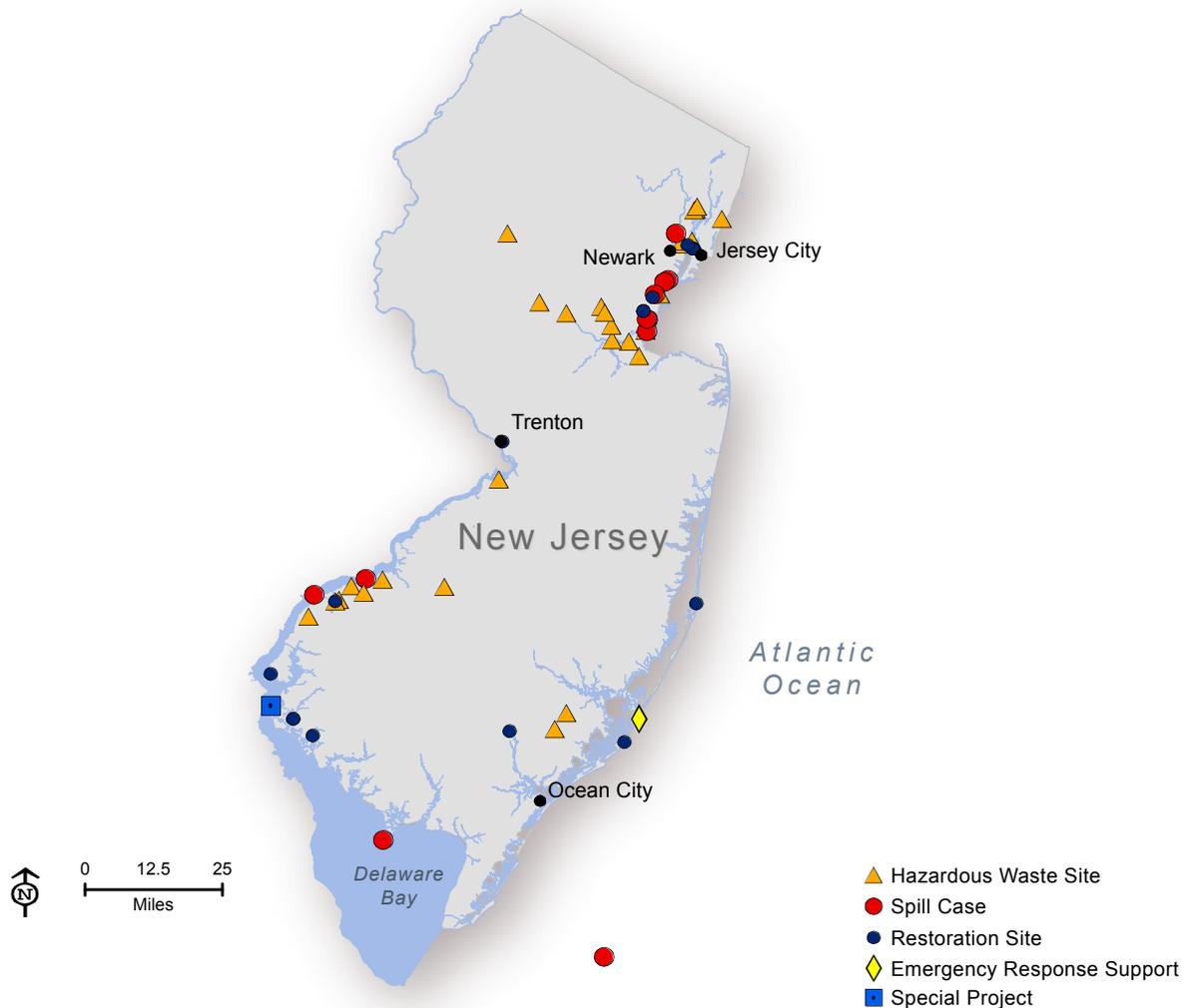
On November 26, 2004, the *Athos I*, a 750-foot tanker, struck a large submerged anchor while preparing to dock at a refinery on the Delaware River and spilled over 265,000 gallons of oil. Over 115 miles of the river (280 miles of shoreline) and six tributaries were oiled, with resulting harm to fish, shellfish, birds, and other wildlife that use the Delaware River and Bay. NOAA provided immediate scientific support to the U.S. Coast Guard through hazard and shoreline assessments, information on oil behavior and movement, cleanup recommendations, risk communication, and public outreach. NOAA biologists, toxicologists, and economists continue to collect data to determine the full damage to natural resources and services.

Assessment and Restoration

In January 1990, an Exxon Bayway refinery pipeline beneath the Arthur Kill ruptured, spilling 567,000 gallons of home heating oil. Over 100 acres of salt marsh were oiled, killing the marsh vegetation as well as fish, crabs, clams, and other invertebrates dependent on the wetland habitat. An estimated 700 birds died as a result of the spill. NOAA worked with other federal and state trustees to construct 17.5 acres of intertidal salt marsh restoration in the Arthur Kill watershed on Woodbridge Creek. NOAA and its co-trustees also acquired 25 acres of freshwater wetlands and upland forest at the headwaters of the Rahway River; and are currently developing plans to restore 35 acres of tidal wetlands along the Hackensack River.



Exxon Bayway oil spill restoration



Research

NOAA collaborates with other federal, state, and local programs to develop innovative approaches to protecting marine and estuarine environments through research and synthesis of information. The Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) brings together the resources of a research-oriented university and the field expertise of OR&R to conduct and oversee basic and applied research, conduct outreach, and encourage strategic partnerships in spill response, assessment, and restoration.

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment

**For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,
please call (301) 713-2989 or visit our Web site at
response.restoration.noaa.gov**

Banner photo courtesy of Captain Albert E. Theberge, NOAA Corps (ret.)

